

**SEMANTIC AMBIGUITY IN DONALD TRUMP'S POLITIC ADDRESS**

**SKRIPSI**

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**By**

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## **BSTRACT**

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The aim of this study were (1) to find of the kinds of ambiguity in Donald Trump's speech (2) to find the meaning of ambiguity in Donald Trump's speech. The writer uses the data from Donald Trump's Politic Address, President Trump's inaugural Address, Annotated edition of January 20, 2017 10:13 A M E T. This study uses a descriptive qualitative method. *Ullmann* (1977: 156) defines ambiguity as a linguist in condition which can arise in a variety of ways. There were 25 data analyzed in terms on ambiguous meaning from phrase or sentence in Donald Trump's speech. There were 23 words in lexical ambiguity and 2 in grammatical ambiguity. The occurrences of lexical ambiguity in Donald Trump's speech happened in the word level and it is caused by Polysemy and Homonymy. There were 15 polysemy and 8 homonymy. The occurrences of grammatical ambiguity happened in the phrases and sentence level and it is caused by grammatical structure. There were 2 phrases based on speech Donald Trump's.

**Keywords : semantic, meaning, ambiguity**

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of Study

Meaning in natural languages is mainly studied by linguists. In fact, semantics is one of the main branches of contemporary linguistics. Semantics is primarily the linguistic, and also philosophical study of meaning—in language, programming languages, formal logics, and semiotics. It focuses on the relationship between *signifiers*—like words, phrases, signs, and symbols—and what they stand for, their denotation.

Ambiguity is a type of uncertainty of meaning in which several interpretations are plausible. It is thus an attribute of any idea or statement whose intended meaning cannot be definitively resolved according to a rule or process with a finite number of steps. It often happens the wrong pronunciation of sentences, so that one also in interpreting the sentence. In the written language we know there are "ambiguous sentence," is the types of sentences that give rise to different meanings if pronounced incorrectly. usually ambiguity in the phrase in a passage seen an error due to no punctuation, usage / placement of punctuation that is not appropriate or an error emphasis by the reader. Ullmann (1972:156) divides ambiguity into three kinds; Phonetic, grammatical and lexical. But the writer just uses grammatical and lexical as the subject of analysis, because the grammatical and lexical ambiguity often we met in daily conversation or event we read the book.

The concept of ambiguity is generally contrasted with vagueness. In ambiguity, specific and distinct interpretations are permitted (although some may not be immediately obvious), whereas with information that is vague, it is difficult to form any interpretation at the desired level of specificity. So the relationship between the semantic and the ambiguity is that ambiguity includes a part of the study of the semantic meaning. There is example of ambiguity in the word : “ *Look at the dog with one eye*” first meaning ‘Look at the dog using only one of your eyes’ and the second meaning ‘Look at the dog that only has one eye’ and we can know the real meaning if we read the full text from the sentence.

Generally, people try to communicate perfectly and completely. They want to give information correctly and usually people can provide important information by speaking in front of people is usually done by the president but sometimes the person who gave a speech to convey the message that uses an ambiguity word in the speech .why ambiguity is important ? because If many people can not analyze the word of ambiguity in sentence it will make people to misunderstanding in a listening or a conversation conducted in public and also many people who do not understand the sentence ambiguity. So, we can know the true meaning of ambiguity when we listen the full text and understand the contents and also we must be listen the first conversation to the end. There are many problem in meaning of ambiguity like many people still do not understand about the real meaning from a speech and also many people can not understand about ambiguous meaning of a word or sentence in speech.

Based on this research, the writer chooses data from Donald Trump's Political Address. Donald Trump is a businessman and politician. Donald Trump, American, was elected as president in 2016 and will be inaugurated on 20 January 2017. Donald Trump has many speeches in front of the public. In several speeches there are few meaningful words and sentences of two or more so-called ambiguous. In this analysis will find the meaning from ambiguity from Donald Trump's political address. This research chooses Donald Trump because at this time Donald Trump has become a hot topic among the community and also Donald Trump has a lot of controversy and writers have been interested for analysis of ambiguity sentence in a speech he read in front of the general public about politics and also there are some speeches that he has ambiguous expressions.

So, expectation with this study is when people hear a speech of their political need to really know the true meaning of the words commonly spoken by a politician and in fact many people especially in a linguist do not understand the true meaning of a sentence or a word spoken by a politician and also a lot of people who do not understand the sentence ambiguous. Actually all of people have to understand ambiguity but a linguist who should be more understanding about the ambiguity. The writer conducted a study to see how much of an ambiguity word or phrase contained in the speech delivered by the president of the American Donald Trump.

## **B. Identification of Problem**

Based on the background identified some problem of this study :

1. Student's still do not understand about the real meaning of a speech
2. Student's can not understand about ambiguous meaning of a word or sentence in speech

## **C. The Scope and Limitation of The Study**

The scope of this study focused on semantic and were limited in ambiguity.

## **D. The Formulation of The Problem**

1. What types of ambiguity found and it's meaning found in Donald Trump's Politic Address ?
2. How is the occurrence of each type of ambiguity found in Donald Trump's Politic Address ?

## **E. The Objectives of The Study**

1. To find out the type of ambiguity Donald Trump's Politic Address
2. To analyze the meaning of ambiguity in the Donald Trump's Politic Address

## **F. The Significances of the Study**

After finishing this research, the writer hopes that this study can give the readers some significances, they are :

a. Theoritically

The theoritical significance of this study is that the result were give theorical information about ambiguity in speech.

b. Practically

1. This study can addreaders' undestanding of the ambigious meaning of a word in or sentence.
2. This study can be the references for the study of semantics in teaching and learning activity
3. This study can be the reference for people who are interested in analyzing ambiguity in their reasearch speech.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

#### A. Theoretical Framework

Marriam (2001) said *theoretical framework provides the researcher the lens to view the world*. Theoretical framework to support the validity of the result of study, the researcher applying some theories about semantic and ambiguity.

#### 1.1 Semantic Theory

Semantics is the study of meaning in language. We know that language is used to express meanings which can be understood by others. But meanings exist in our minds and we can express what is in our minds through the spoken and written forms of language (as well as through gestures, action etc.).

Definition semantis by expert :

1. Katz (1972) states that a semantic theory must explain why the meaning of a linguistic construction makes it a case of a certain semantic property or relation, makes it exhibit the phenomenon of synonymy, ambiguity, or redundancy, and so forth
2. Palmer (1976) states “Semantics is the technical term used to refer to study of meaning.”
3. Hurford and Heasley (1983) said that semantics is the study of meaning in language.

4. George Yule (2006) said that semantic is the study of the meaning of words, phrases and sentences.
5. Stephen Ullmann (1972) said that Semantic is the branches of linguistic are specially concerned with words, the study of word meaning.

The sound patterns of language are studied at the level of phonology and the organisation of words and sentences is studied at the level of morphology and syntax. These are in turn organised in such a way that we can convey meaningful messages or receive and understand messages. ‘How is language organised in order to be meaningful?’ This is the question we ask and attempt to answer at the level of semantics. Semantics is that level of linguistic analysis where meaning is analysed. It is the most abstract level of linguistic analysis, since we cannot see or observe meaning as we can observe and record sounds. Meaning is related very closely to the human capacity to think logically and to understand. So when we try to analyse meaning, we are trying to analyse our own capacity to think and understand, our own ability to create meaning. Semantics concerns itself with ‘giving a systematic account of the nature of meaning.’

In international scientific vocabulary semantics is also called *semasiology*. The word *semantics* was first used by Michel Bréal, a French philologist.<sup>[31]</sup> It denotes a range of ideas—from the popular to the highly technical. It is often used in ordinary language for denoting a problem of understanding that comes down to word selection or connotation. This problem of understanding has been the subject of many formal enquiries, over a long period of time, especially in the field of formal semantics. In

linguistics, it is the study of the interpretation of signs or symbols used in agents or communities within particular circumstances and contexts.<sup>[4]</sup> Within this view, sounds, facial expressions, body language, and proxemics have semantic (meaningful) content, and each comprises several branches of study. In written language, things like paragraph structure and punctuation bear semantic content; other forms of language bear other semantic content.

The formal study of semantics intersects with many other fields of inquiry, including lexicology, syntax, pragmatics, etymology and others. Independently, semantics is also a well-defined field in its own right, often with synthetic properties.<sup>[5]</sup> In the philosophy of language, semantics and reference are closely connected. Further related fields include philology, communication, and semiotics. The formal study of semantics can therefore be manifold and complex.

In “General Semantics,” David Lewis wrote “I distinguish two topics: first, the description of possible languages or grammars as abstract semantic systems whereby symbols are associated with aspects of the world; and, second, the description of the psychological and sociological facts whereby a particular one of these abstract semantic systems is the one used by a person or population. Only confusion comes of mixing these two topics. (Lewis 1970, 19).

## **1.2 Theory of Meaning**

Definition meaning by experts

1. Lyons (1977 : 4) says “Meaning is a word of ordinary, every day vocabulary of English.”

2. Bloomfield (1933 : 139) defines “Meaning of a linguistics form as a situation in which the speakers utter it and response which it calls forth in the hearer.”

The term “theory of meaning” has figured, in one way or another, in a great number of philosophical disputes over the last century. Unfortunately, this term has also been used to mean a great number of different things.

Here focus on two sorts of “theory of meaning.” The first sort of theory—a semantic theory—is a theory which assigns semantic contents to expressions of a language. Approaches to semantics may be divided according to whether they assign propositions as the meanings of sentences and, if they do, what view they take of the nature of these propositions.

The second sort of theory—a foundational theory of meaning—is a theory which states the facts in virtue of which expressions have the semantic contents that they have. Approaches to the foundational theory of meaning may be divided into theories which do, and theories which do not, explain the meanings of expressions of a language used by a group in terms of the contents of the mental states of members of that group.

The nature of meaning, its definition, elements, and types, was discussed by philosophers Aristotle, Augustine, and Aquinas. According to them "meaning is a relationship between two sorts of things: *signs* and the kinds of things they *mean* (intend, express or signify)". One term in the relationship of meaning necessarily causes something else to come to the mind. In other words: "a sign is defined as an entity that indicates another entity to some agent for some purpose". As Augustine

states, a sign is “something that shows itself to the senses and something other than itself to the mind” (*Signum est quod se ipsum sensui et praeter se aliquid animo ostendit; De dial.*, 1975, 86).

### **1.3 Kinds of Meaning**

Leech ( 1947 ) divides meaning into seven types, they are :

#### *1. Conceptual Meaning*

Sometimes, it is called as denotative or cognitive meaning. It is widely assumed to be central fact in linguistic communication and it can be shown to be integral to the essential functions of language in a way that other types of meaning are not ( which is not to say that conceptual meaning is always the most important element of an act of linguistic communication.

#### *2. Connotative Meaning*

Connotative meaning is the communicative value of an expression by virtue of what it refers to, over and above its purely conceptual content. To a large extent, the notion of ‘ reference’ overlaps with conceptual meaning.

#### *3. Stylistic and Affective Meaning*

Stylistic meaning is the which a piece of language conveys about the social circumstances of its use. The stylistic meaning of a text is decoded through the recognition of different dimensions and levels of usage within the same language.

#### *4. Reflective and Collocative Meaning*

Reflective meaning is the meaning which arises in cases of multiple conceptual meaning, when one sense of a word-forms part of our response to another sense

### *5. Associative Meaning*

Associative meaning is the affiliation of the reflective meaning. Collocative meaning, stylistic and affective meaning. It consists of many factors which can be studied by using statistical approach.

### *6. Thematic meaning*

Thematic meaning relates to the way of the speaker or the writer organizes the message, in terms of ordering, focus, and emphasis. It is often felt, for example, that an active sentence has different meaning from its passive equivalent but in conceptual content they may seem to be the same.

### *7. Intended Meaning and Interpreted Meaning*

Intended meaning refers to the mind of speaker or writer when he/she is framing his/her message while interpreted meaning refers to the mind of the reader when he/she receives the message.

## **1.4 Ambiguity**

Definition Ambiguity by experts :

*1. Ullmann* (1977: 156) defines ambiguity as a linguistic condition which can arise in a variety of ways. From a purely linguistic point of view, he distinguishes ambiguity into three main forms: phonetic, grammatical and lexical ambiguity. Ambiguity can arise in a variety of spoken and written language. If we listen to the speaker's utterance

or read a book, we are sometimes difficult to understand what the speaker or the writer means.

2. *Kroeger* (2005:26) ambiguity is a sentence can have more than one meaning insentence of this type are said to be ambiguous, meaning that the same string of words can be interpreted in more than way.

Ambiguity is a type of uncertainty of meaning in which several interpretations are plausible. It is thus an attribute of any idea or statement whose intended meaning cannot be definitively resolved according to a rule or process with a finite number of steps. (The *ambi-* part of the name reflects an idea of "two" as in two meanings.

### **1.5 Kinds of Ambiguity**

#### **1. Phonological Ambiguity**

Ambiguity in the level of phonology arises from the sound of language uttered. Sometimes people speak too fast and make other people feel doubt about the meaning or message of the utterance so that people may interpret it in many ways.

Example:

1 . I scream [I skri:m]or Ice cream [aiskri:m].

When the hearers hear the utterance above, they may have the different interpretation whether 'I scream' refers to the action 'scream' or 'ice cream' refers to the kinds of drink.

## 2. Lexical Ambiguity

Stephen Ullmann (1977:158) Lexical ambiguity arises when a single word has more than one meaning, for a word, and there are factors which can be lexical ambiguity is a polysemy and homonymy. Lexical ambiguity arises when a single word has more than one meaning. This kind of ambiguity may arise in the written form, such as in the articles, in the news titles, and other form of written texts.

Example of lexical ambiguity :

2. “ *I saw bats.* “

There are some meaning for this sentence :

- a) I use a tool with a sharp blade to slice through baseball bats.
- b) I viewed some nocturnal flying mammals.
- c) I viewed baseball bats.

## 3. Grammatical Ambiguity

Hurford and Heasley (1983: 128) also stated. “grammatical ambiguity happens because its words relate to each other in different ways, even though none of the individual words are ambiguous.” Structural (grammatical) ambiguity is caused by grammatical factors. According to Ullmann (1977: 156), there are two possibilities that equivoque may result from the ambiguousness of grammatical forms or from the structure of the sentence :

1. Many grammatical forms, free as well as bound, are ambiguous. Some prefixes and suffixes have more than one meaning, and this may, on occasion, create misunderstanding. The suffix -able does not mean the same thing in desirable or readable as it does in eatable, knowable, debatable. There are also homonymous

prefixes and suffixes. The prefix in-, meaning ‘into, within, towards, upon’ (e.g. indent, inborn, inbreeding, inflam), has a homonym in the prefix in-expressing negation or privation (e.g. inappropriate, inexperienced, inconclusive). Though the two enter into different combinations they can occasionally give rise to confusion and uncertainty. Form words too may have several meanings which may make for confusion in some contexts.

2. Another source of grammatical ambiguity is equivocal phrasing(‘amphibology’). Here, the individual words are unambiguous but their combination can be interpreted in two or more different ways.

According Ullmann (1977:158) Lexical Ambiguity arises when a single word has more than one meaning, for a word, and there are factors which can be lexical ambiguity is a *polysemy and homonymy*.

### 1. Polysemy

Polysemy is the existence of several meaning for a single word or phrase. The word polysemy comes from the Greek *ordπολυ-*, poly-, “many” and *σήμα, sêma*, “sign” . *In other words it is the capacity for a word, phrase, or sign to have multiple meaning i.e., a large semantic field.* Polysemy is a pivotal concept within the [humanities](#), such as [media studies](#) and [linguistics](#).

A word like walk is polysemous :

- a) I went **walking** this morning
- b) The wardrobe is too heavy to lift we’ll have to **walk** it into bedroom (move a large object by rocking)

- c) She **walks** the tower (to haunt a place or ghost)
- d) The workers threatened to **walk** (to go on strike)
- e) **Walk** with God! (to live your life in a particular way)

## 2. Homonymy

The word homonym comes from Greek ὁμόνυμος (homonumos), meaning “having the same name”, which is the conjunction of ὁμός (homos), meaning “common” and ὄνομα (onoma) meaning “name”. In other words, homonymy refers to two or more distinct concepts sharing the “same name”.

Example includes the following nouns, verb and adjective :

- 1) *Sow* , the verb means to plant seeds

Example : He *sowed* the seeds of revolution

*Sow*, the noun, refers to an adult pig

Example : Have you fed the *sow* ?

- 2) *Bank*, the noun, means a business offering financial services

Example : He went to the *bank* to deposit some money

*Bank*, the noun, refers to the steep side of a river, stream, lake or canal

Example : We climbed the river *bank* safely

## 1.6 Biography of Donald Trump

Donald John Trump (born June 14, 1946) is an American businessman. On November 9, 2016, he became the President-elect of the United States. He is the chairman and president of The Trump Organization. Much of his money was made in

real estate in New York City, Las Vegas, and Atlantic City. He used to own the Miss Universe pageant. He was the star in his own reality show *The Apprentice*.

In June 2015, Trump announced that he would run for President of the United States in the 2016 presidential elections. Starting mid-July, polls showed that Trump was the front-runner in the Republican field. This was true even after much criticism from the party due to his comments on illegal immigration, Muslims, and ISIS. His campaign has gained support from mostly middle class families. It has gained opposition from Democrats, some Republicans, business people, world leaders and the Pope.

On May 4, 2016, Trump became the presumptive nominee after his only remaining challengers Texas United States senator Ted Cruz and Governor of Ohio, John Kasich dropped out. He became the president-elect on November 9, 2016, after a close race with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Each of them needed 270 electoral votes to win. Trump earned 279, but Clinton had 228. He will become the 45th president on January 20, 2017. At 70 years old, Trump will be the oldest person to assume the presidency since Ronald Reagan in 1981 at the age of 69.

### **1.7 Politic Address**

Political address or speech refers to a statement or a comment that is made about the actions of the government as opposed to about private or individual actions. In the United States, this type of speech is generally tied to the freedom of expression and is protected by the First Amendment. Statements or art of a political nature can be considered political speech unless it is defamatory or obscene in nature. Critique of

the personal actions of a political figure, for example, could be legally considered libel or slander and is not protected by the First Amendment. As of 2015, certain types of political speech created in support of a political candidate or figure can be restricted by campaign finance laws at the federal and state levels.

### **1.8 Types of political address**

There are two types of political address, Direct and Indirect.

1. Direct political speech is direct actions an individual undertakes to facilitate the election of the candidate of their choice. The most pure form of direct political speech is voting. The other form of direct political speech is by campaign contribution where the amount of money or in kind donation has a direct effect on the ability of your candidate to conduct their campaign.

2. Indirect political speech is all forms of political speech intended to affect the votes, contributions and ideas of others for the purpose of influencing the outcome of an election. Indirect political speech would of course include all types of media transmissions, campaign and negative advertising, and publications. When it comes to indirect political speech, loud voices, enabled by wealth or the economics of association can be influencing but not determining and for this reason need be allowed to the greatest extent. Our political culture currently understands that some limitations may be necessary to keep the strongest voices from drowning out the lesser in the political process.

The other direct right of political speech, which we understand in our political culture is necessary to limit is the right to contribute to campaigns and political parties. Recently there has been a great deal discussion and controversy over the expanding position and speech of groups such as unions, corporations, political action committees, and other groups and associations to contribute and it is apparent that all limits all to campaign contributions and to those donations by groups and associations are tenuous at best and based upon current interpretation of precedent.

### **B. Previous by Relevant Studies**

There are some researches had been conducted related to this study before. One of them was conducted in Journal of William M.P Klein, Jennifer L.cerully, Matthew M. monin Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh Don A. Moore Tepper School of Bussiness, Carnegie Mellon University ( 2010 ) entitled Ability, chance and ambiguity aversion : Revisting the competence hypothesis . this journal to find out how ever they often prefer apparently ambiguous ability-based prospects to unambiguous chance-based propects. According to the competence hypothesis (Heat &Tversky, 1991), this pattern drives from favorable perceptions of one's the source of the ambiguity (e.g., chance vs missing information) we unconfound these factors in three experiments and find strong evidence for independent effects of both ambiguity aversion and competence. Three experiments tell a consistent story about how people behave when making choises among options that vary in both controllability and ambiguity. In shortm ambiguity aversion and the documented preference for controllable over uncontrollable options appear to be

independent tendencies. These results also provide strong support for the competence hypothesis in contexts that address limitations with past test of this hypothesis.

Second journal of Jennifer Rood *MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, Cambridge, United Kingdom* Gareth Gaskell *Department of Psychology, University of York, United Kingdom* William Marslen-Wilson *MRC Cognition AND Brain Sciences Unit, Cambridge, United Kingdom*( 2002 ) entitled Making Sense of Semantic Ambiguity : Semantic Competition in Lexical Access this journal explain about semantic ambiguity and make a explanation who explained that semantic ambiguity is very common in language and our ability to understand ambiguous words is an important property of our languageprocessing system and then many words are semantically ambiguous and can refer to more than one concept. For example, *bark* can refer either to a part of a tree or to the sound made by a dog. To understand such words, we must select one of these different in terpretations, normally on the basis of the context in which the word occurs. Words can be ambiguous in different ays; a word like *bark*has two semantically unrelated meanings, which seem to share the same written and spoken form purely by chance. More common than this type of accidental ambiguity is the systematic abiguitybeten related word sense. The ambiguity advantage is the finding that visual lexical decisions are faster for words that are semantically ambiguous. Early reports of an ambiguity advantage came from Rubenstein, Garfield, Millikan (1970) and Jastrzembski (1981), who found faster visual lexical desions for ambiguous words than for unambiguos words matched for overall frequency. In summary, all current

accounts of the ambiguity advantages assume that it is ambiguity between unrelated meaning that produces the ambiguity advantage.

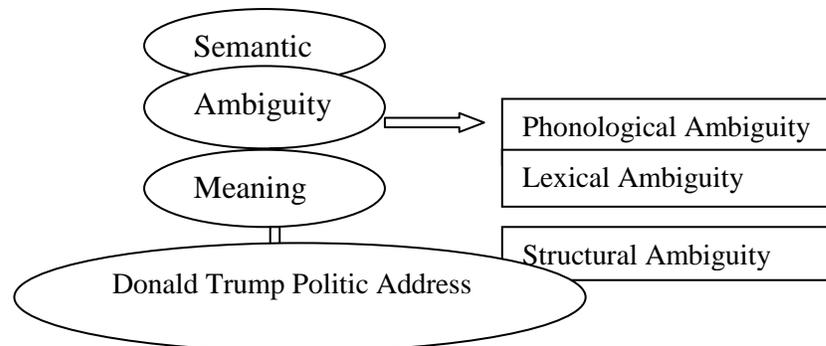
Third journal of Muhammad RayhanBustamThe Student of English Linguistics Magister Faculty Of Arts UniversitasPadjadjaran entitled The Analysis of Ambiguous Structures through the Structural Ambiguity Concept. This journal to find out description of structural ambiguity. Structural ambiguity is a kind of ambiguities which occurs when a phrase, clause or sentence can be given two or more different interpretations as a result of the arrangement of words (the structure). The structural ambiguity can arise even though there is no word(s) are ambiguous in the structure. The result of the paper shows that the structural ambiguity can occur in some structures, namely: Noun Phrase, Prepositional Phrase, Relative Clause, Noun Clause, and also the combination of those with conjunction (coordinating). And then in this journal give explanation about communication as a language. Human, as a social creature uses language to build relationship with other through communication; therefore, the communication itself, both written and spoken, is very important in human's life. In our daily life, sometimes communication can't be run well if we don't state our utterance in clear meaning. It makes the listener or the reader interpret our utterance in different meaning. Actually, to understand a written language is rather difficult than a spoken language because if the listener doesn't understand what we say, he/she can ask us directly what we mean. On the other hand, if the reader doesn't understand what we had written in a book, a novel, and the other text media, he/she can't ask us directly. It makes the reader come to misinterpreting or

misunderstanding about the message in the text. This misunderstanding is known as ambiguity.

The writer have different analysis of three journal .the writer will analyzed meaning of Ambiguity in Donald Trump’s Politic Address. The writer will find the speech and analyzed ambiguity especially in lexical and grammatical ambiguity .

## B. Conceptual Framework

Camp (2001) said *A conceptual framework is a structure of what has been learned to best explain the natural progression of a phenomenon that is being studied.*



Semantics contrasts with syntax, the study of the combinatorics of units of a language (without reference to their meaning), and pragmatics, the study of the relationships between the symbols of a language, their meaning, and the users of the language.<sup>[6]</sup> Semantics as a field of study also has significant ties to various representational theories of meaning including truth theories of meaning, coherence

theories of meaning, and correspondence theories of meaning. Each of these is related to the general philosophical study of reality and the representation of meaning.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **THE METHOD OF RESEARCH**

#### **A. Research Design**

This research were conducted by using descriptive qualitative design. Neuman (2000:123) states that qualitative is descriptive which the data in the form of words and images from documents, observations, and transcript. In qualitative research the focus is in document analysis. This research design is qualitative design because this research want to describe the meaning of ambiguity in Donald Trump Politic Address.

#### **B. Source of Data**

The source of data obtained from Donald Trump's Politic Address. There are many speech of Donald Trump but in this study only use one speech to be analyze of ambiguity. The title is *President Trump's Inaugural Address, Annotated and*.

#### **C. Techniques of Collecting Data**

The technique of collecting by using document technique based on the following step :

- a. Searching the speech of Donald trump politic Address in internet
- b. Identifying the meaning ambiguity from Donald Trump Politic Address

- c. Identifying the kinds of ambiguity in Donald Trump politic Address

#### **D.The technique of Data Analysis**

In analyzing use the data by Miles and Huberman (2014) said that the qualitative data analysis consist of three procedures. The procedures. The procedures of data analysis based on the following steps:

##### 1. Data Reduction

Data reduction means the process of sorting, focusing, identifying, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming of the data that are considered important. In the conducting research, the researcher were select data and give valuable information in research; the data is chosen by identifying and classifying the kinds of figures of speech. In conducting this research, researcher were select data from Donald Trump Politic Address to analyzing the meaning of ambiguity.

##### 2. Data Display

Data display means the process to simplify the data in the form of sentences, narrative, or table. In displaying data, the researcher describes data by tabulating of the kinds of figures of speech into table. So, the researcher were be described meaning of ambiguity based on the Donald Trump Politic Address.

##### 3. Drawing and Verifying Conclusion

The last step after doing the data display is drawn of the conclusion and verification. It is used to describe all of the data, so that it were become clearly. The

conclusion can be able to answer the formulation of the problem that formulated from the beginning.

## CHAPTER IV

### DATA AND DATA ANALYSIS

#### A. Data Collection

The data were collected from Donald Trump's speech. There were 25 occurrences of ambiguity in Donald Trump's speech. The data were analyzed based on Lexical and Grammatical ambiguity. There were 23 lexical ambiguity in a speech and there are 2 Grammatical ambiguity in a speech.

#### B. Data Analysis

Data analysis focus on lexical ambiguity and grammatical ambiguity. There were 25 occurrences of ambiguity in speech of Donald Trump .

##### 1. Lexical Ambiguity

Ullmann (1977:158) said Lexical Ambiguity arises when a single word has more than one meaning, for a word, and there are factors which can be lexical ambiguity is a polysemy and homonymy. There were 23 lexical ambiguity in the speech of Donald Trump.

All lexical ambiguity were analyzed one by one :

(1) We will confront *hardship*.

There are two meaning of *hardship*. So the word *hardship* can mean ambiguous in sentence (1).

- a) First meaning of *hardship* is circumstance that causes discomfort of suffering.
- b) Second meaning of *hardship* is severe suffering.

Based on the contents *hardship* its mean *condition caused by discomfort* .So the real meaning from the word of *hardship* is the first meaning. Because there are the sentence before the word *hardship*. The sentence is *we will face challenges*. In that sentence there are word *challenge*. *challenges* in the sentence its mean the object to be solved.

(2) First lady Michelle Obama for their *gracious*

In sentence (2) the word *gracious* has two meaning that make the listener confused with the word. There are two meaning of *gracious*.

- a) First meaning of *gracious* is their behaviour (kindness, courteous, generous)
- b) Second meaning of *gracious* is expressing surprise (oh god , whats wrong?)

Based on the speech the true meaning of *gracious* it's the first meaning because the sentence after *gracious* is *aid throughout this transition* . So *gracious* is that sentence its mean a *kindness, courteous or generous*

(3) Matters is not which *party*

Based on the contents there are more than two meaning of *party* . So we can see the true meaning of *party* when we listen the before and after the sentence in the speech. There are four meaning of *party* in sentence (3).

- a) First meaning of *party* is a group of person united in policy and opinion
- b) Second meaning of *party* is government based on political parties

c) Third meaning of *party* is group of persons travelling or working together  
( aorganisation )

d) Fourth meaning of *party* is a group for have fun

Based on the contents the true meaning of party is the *government based on political*. Because there are some words that support the word party the sentence is *controls our government*. After we listen the next text we can know the true meaning. But if we only listen the word of party we can not know the true meaning. Because party is the ambiguity word.

(4) Aid throughout this *transition*.

In the speech the word of *transition* make the listener confused. Because there are two meaning of *transition* .

a) First meaning of *transition* is the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another.

b) Second meaning of *transition* is the process by which a paermenthy adopts the outward or physical characteristics of the gender with which they identify as apposed to those associated with their birth sex.

Based on the contents the true meaning of transition *is* the first meaning because *transition* in the sentence its mean *process from one state or condition to another* And then there is sentence that can make the true meaning of the word transittion. The sentence is *And we are grateful to President Obama And first lady Michelle Obama for their gracious*.

(5) We are not merely *transferring*

There are one of example of ambiguity word of *transferring* in the speech. *Transferring* have more than two meaning . So it can make the listener confused with the word . There are third meaning of *transferring* in sentence (5).

- a) first meaning of *transferring* is move from one place to another place
- b) second meaning of *transferring* is hand of over the possession of property
- c) third meaning of *transferring* is convey (drawing, design, pattern ) from one surface to another.

So based on the contents the true meaning of *transferring* is the first meaning because after the word *transferring* there are word *power from Washington, D.C., and giving it it back to you, the people*. So of course the meaning of *transferring* in the context is *move from one place to another place*.

(6) While the people have borne *the cost*

In the word *cost* in the speech there are more than two meaning that can make the listener confused with the word. This meaning of sentence (6).

- a) First meaning of *cost* is require the payment
- b) Second meaning of *cost* is result in the loss
- c) Third meaning of *cost* is disadvantages
- d) Fourth meaning of *cost* is price

Based on the speech the word cost its mean *price* because there are sentence before the words . The words is *for too long, a small group in our nation's capital has reaped the rewards of government.*

(7) National effort to rebuild our *country*

In the sentence there are word *country* that have two meaning that can be make confused the listener. There are two meaning of *country* in sentence (7).

- a) First meaning of *country* is nation with its own government, occupying a particular territory
- b) Second meaning of *country* is district and small settlements outside large town, cities, or the capital

Based on the sentence the true meaning of *country* is *nation with its own government* because there are sentence before the word *country* . The sentence is *Washington flourished, but the people did not share in its wealth. Politicians prospered, but the jobs left. And the factories closed.* So that sentence can make the listener know the true meaning of the word *country*.

(8) Part of a historic *movement*

In the word *movement* there are two meaning of *movement* but only there one true meaning based on the contents. This is the meaning of the *movement*.

- a) First meaning of *movement* is an act of changing physical location or position or of having this changed.

- b) Second meaning of *movement* is the activities and whereabouts of someone, especially during a particular period of time

Based on the contents the real meaning of movement is *the activities of someone especially during particular period of time*. We can know the real meaning if we listen the text before and after the sentence. The sentence before the word movement is *everyone is listening to you know .you came by the tens of millions to become part of a historic movement. The likes of which the world has never seen before*.

(9) America will *start* winning again

Based on the speech the word *start* can mean two meaning which are called ambiguity. Ambiguity is the word, sentence or phrase that have more than one meaning. The meaning of sentence (9) is :

- a) First meaning of start is come into being or be reckoned from a particular point in time or space
- b) Second meaning of *start* is use a particular point, action or circumstance as an opening for a course of nation
- c) Third meaning of *start* is give small jump or make sudden jerking movement from surprise or alarm

Based on the contents of the speech the meaning of words start is the second meaning of some explanation. Because there are the sentence before the word start that make meaning of wordstart the sentence is *winning like never before*".

(10) We will bring back our *dreams*

Based on the contents of speech there is a word *dream* that can mean more than one meaning. There are two meanings of *dream*.

- a) First meaning of *dreams* is a series of thoughts, images and sensations occurring in a person's mind during sleep
- b) Second meaning of *dreams* is to contemplate the possibility of doing something or that something might be the case

So the true meaning of the word is *contemplate the possibility of doing something or that something might be the case dreams*. The listener can understand the true meaning if the listener listens to some words before the sentence. The sentence is *we will bring back our wealth* and after the sentence is *we will build new roads and highways and bridges and airports and tunnels and railways all across our wonderful nation*. It can make the listener know the true meaning from some definition of dreams.

(11) We will *shine* for everyone

In the sentence *shine* can mean an ambiguous word in the contents. Because there are two meanings of *shine*. The meanings are :

- a) First meaning of *shine* is of the sun or another source of light
- b) Second meaning of *shine* is to be very talented or to perform very well

Based on the contents the meaning of the word *shine* is *very talented or perform very well*. Because there are sentences before the word *shine* that get the true

meaning . The sentence is *we do not seek impose our way of life on anyone but rather to let it shine as an example*. The sentence can make the listener understand about meaning of shine.

(12) Completely from the *face*

Based on the sentence the word of *face* can make two meaning that can make ambiguity words. The meaning of *face* are :

- a) First meaning of *face* is the front of a person's head from the forehead to the chin, or the corresponding part in a animal
- b) Second meaning of *face* is confront and deal with accept

So the real meaning of the word *face* is *confront and deal with accept* because there are some words after the words *face* that can support the true meaning of *face*. The words is *of the earth*. The *earth* its mean *a earth where we are* so it is not possible meanings of the *face* was *the face of human or animal*.

(13) When you open your *heart*

Based on the contents the word *heart* has two meaning .

- a) First meaning of *heart* is a hollow muscular organ that pumps the blood through the circulatory system by rhythmic contraction and dilation
- b) Second meaning of *heart* is of a person's thoughts and emotion, especially love or compassion

So the true meaning based on the contents is *a person's thoughts and emotion, especially love or compassion* because after that sentence there are some words that can make the true meaning of heart the words is *to patriotism, there is no room for prejudice*. it can make the listener understand what the true meaning.

(14) We must think *big*

Based on the sentence in the speech there are word *big* that can make the listener confused if the listener only listen the word of *big*. There are two meaning of a *big* .

- a) First meaning of *big* is of considerable size, extant, or intensity
- b) Second meaning of *big* is specified action very often or on a very large scale.

So the real meaning of *big* is *a specified action very often or on a very large scale*. Because impossible if the word *big* in that sentence its mean *size*. There are some words after the word *big* , the words is *and dream even bigger*. So the some words after *big* can make the listener get the true meaning of *big*.

(15) *The time* for empty talk is over

In the contents there is word *time* that can make some meaning .This is the meaning of *time*.

- a) First meaning of *time* is the indefinite continued progress of existence and eventd in the past, present and future regarde as a whole
- b) Second meaning of *time* is a point of time as measure in hours and minutes past midnight or noon

c) Third meaning of *time* is an instance of something happening or being done

Based on the contents the true meaning of time is *an instance of something happening or being done* because there are word *talk* after the word time. We can know the true meaning when we listen full text of the content.

(16) Now arrives the *hour*

Based on the speech there are more than one meaning for the word *hour*. So we can get the true meaning when we listen and understand the sentence. This is the meaning of *hour*.

- a) First meaning of *hour* is a period of time equal to a twenty four part of a day and night and divided into 60 minutes
- b) Second meaning of *hour* is a point in time
- c) Third meaning of *hour* is a fixed period of time for an activity, such as work use of a building, etc.

Based on the sentence we can get the true meaning .the true meaning is *a fixed period of time for an activity*. There are only one words after the word hour that can make we know the true meaning of the word is *action*. Action its mean *aactivity*.

(17) Can *match* the heart

Based on the speech there are one of example of ambiguity .there word is *match* can make the listener confused if the listener not listen full text of the contents. There are two meaning of the *match*.

- a) First meaning of *match* is a contest in which people or teams compete against each other in a particular sport
- b) Second meaning of *match* is a person or thing able to contend with another as an equal in quality or strength

So the real meaning of the word *match* is *a person or thing able to contend with another as an equal in quality or strength*. Because there are words *no challenges* its mean *someone who was competing* that can supports the sentence for know the true meaning.

(18) Ready to unlock the *mysteries*

Based on the speech there are word *mysteries* that has more than one meaning.

The meaning of *mysteries* are

- a) First meaning of *mysteries* is something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain
- b) Second meaning of *mysteries* is a novel, play, or movie dealing with a puzzling crime, especially a murder

So the real meaning of that sentence is *something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain* because the word *mystery* not a *action of a murder*.

(19) We all *salute*

Based on the speech there are two meaning of the word *salute*

- a) First meaning of *salute* is a gesture of respect, homage, or polite recognition or acknowledgment, especially one made to or by a person when arriving or departing
- b) Second meaning of *salute* is movement, typically a raising of a hand to the head, made by a member of military or similiary force as a formal sign of respect or recognition

So the real meaning of the word *salute* is *movement, typically a raising of a hand to the head*. Because there are the word that support that sentence. The word is *the same great american flag*. There is word *flag* that can make the true meaning from the word *salute*.

(20) *Your voice, your hopes and your dreams*

In the speech there are more than one meaning of *voice*. we can not know or analysis the true meaning of the word *voice* before we listen the full text. So there are some meaning of *voice* :

- a) First meaning of *voice* is the sound produced in a person's larynx and uttered through the mouth, as speech or song
- b) Second meaning of *voice* is music the range of pitch or type of tone with which a person sings, such as soprano or tenor
- c) Third meaning of *voice* is the right to express an opinion

Based on the contents the true meaning is *the right to express an opinion*. We can listen after the word *voice* there are some word can make support that sentence to

know the real meaning . the sentence is *will define our American destiny*. So impossible if the sound mean *produced in a person* and also impossible if the meaning of voice in that sentence *music the range* .

(21) Will forever *guide*

Based on the contents there are word *guide* that can make the listener confused if the listener only listen the word. Because the *guide* have two meaning.

- a) First meaning of *guide* is a person who advises or shows the way to others
- b) Second meaning of *guide* is a thing that helps someone to form an opinion or make a decision or calculation

So the true meaning of word *guide* is *someone to form an opinion or make a decision or calculation*. Because in the next sentence is *together we will make america strong again* the next sentence make we know the true meaning.

(22) Its promise for all of *our people*.

Based on the speech there are more than one meaning of a word *people*. This is the meaning of *people*.

- a) First meaning of *people* is human beings in general or considered collectively
- b) Second meaning of *people* is the citizens of a country, especially when considered in relation to those who govern them.

So the true meaning of *people* based on the contents is *the citizens of a country, especially when considered in relation to those who govern them*. Because the *people*

in the speech its mean *people from america not all the people*. There are the sentence before the word *people* that can make we know the true meaning. The sentence is *we the citizens of america, are now joined in a great national effort to rebuild our country and restore its promise for all of our people*

(23) There is no *room*

In the sentence there is the word *room* that has more than one meaning its called ambiguity. There are two meaning of *room*.

- a) First meaning of *room* is space that can be occupied or where something can be done, especially viewed in terms of whether there is enough.
- b) Second meaning of *room* is something to happen or be done, especially without causing trouble or damage

So based on the contents the true meaning of the word *room* is *something to happen or be done, especially without causing trouble or damage* the sentence mean a *chance for do the something*. We can listen the next word after *room* is *for prejudice* .the word *prejudicate* can support that the meaning of *room* .

## **2. Grammatical Ambiguity**

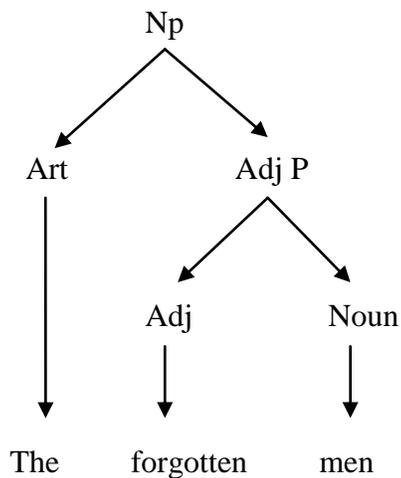
Hurford and Heasley (1983: 128) also stated. "Structural (grammatical) ambiguity happens because its words relate to each other in different ways, even though none of the individual words are ambiguous." Structural (grammatical) ambiguity is caused by grammatical factors.

Grammatical ambiguity found in Donald Trump's speech :

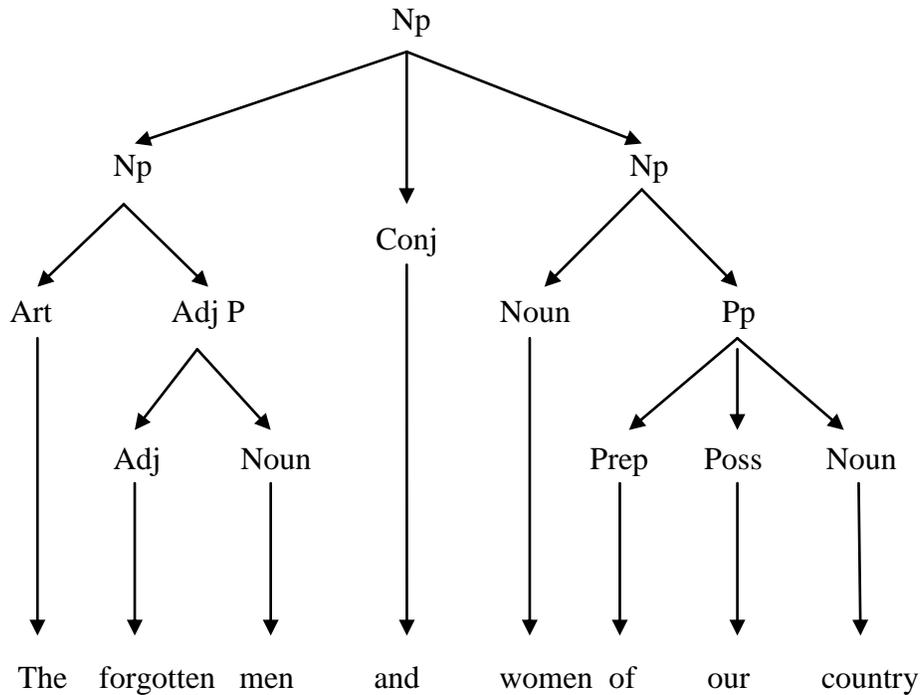
(1) *The forgotten men and women of our country* will be forgotten no longer

The headline above is an example of grammatical ambiguity. It is the case of grammatical ambiguity where the phrase of the sentence creates ambiguity because of the equivocal phrasing. The noun phrase *The forgotten men and women of our country* is considered as an ambiguous one, since it has two different forms which make the sentence have two different meanings.

(1) The forgotten men



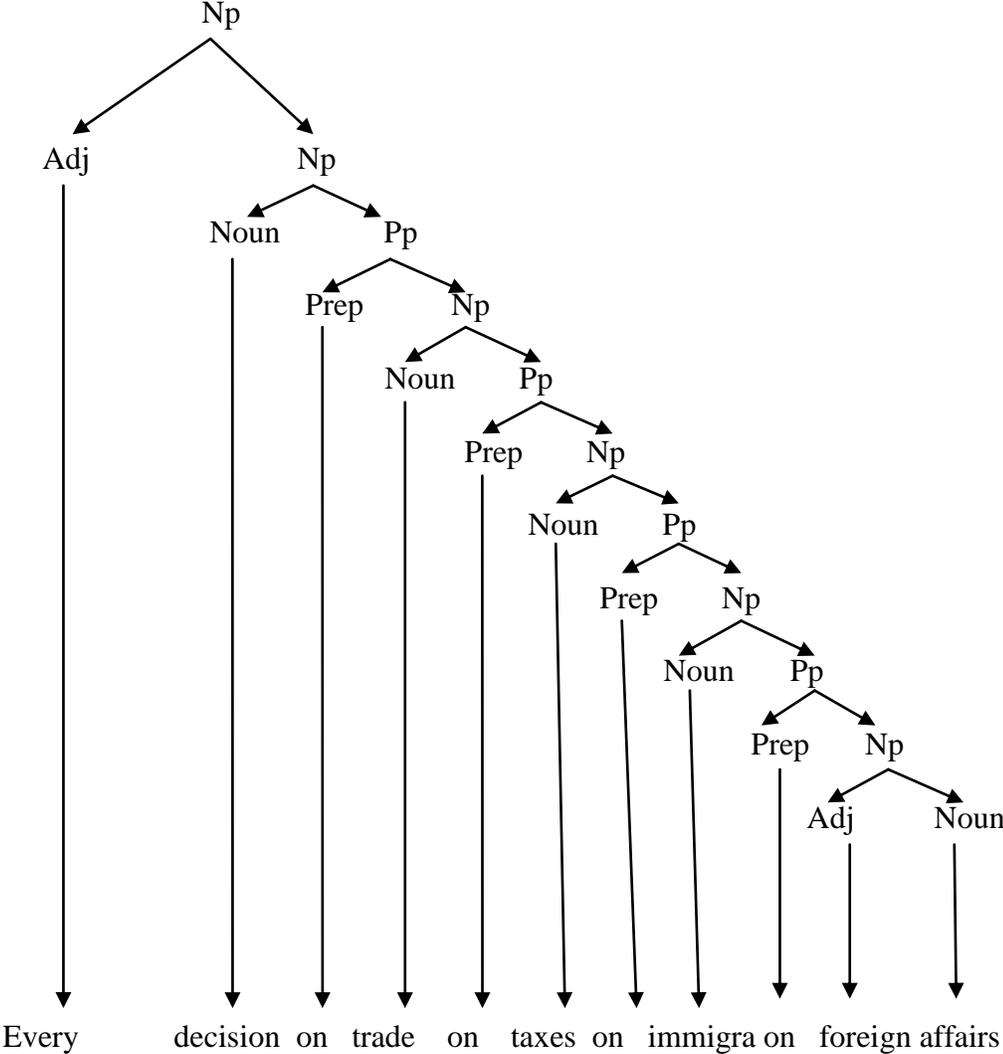
(2) The forgotten men and women of our country



(2) *every decision on trade, on taxes, on immigration, on foreign affairs* will be made to benefit american worker and american families.

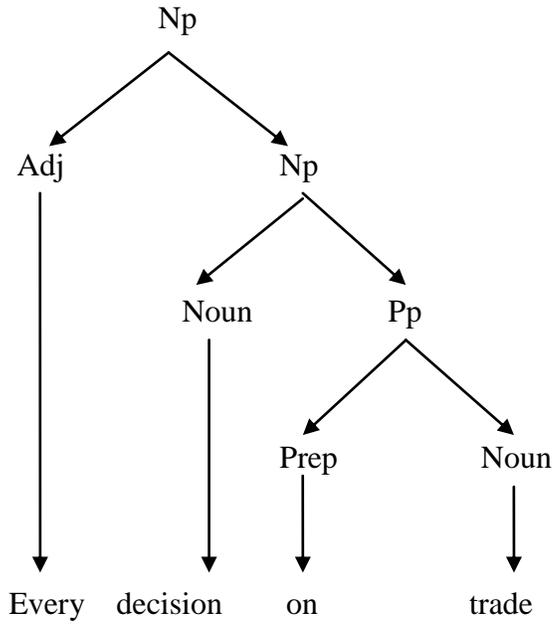
The headline above is ambiguous and classified as grammatical ambiguity. The noun phrase is *every decision on trade, on taxes, on immigration, on foreign affairs* in the phrase is considered as ambiguous since the phrase can be interprets in some different ways. The phrase has four different meaning forms which make the sentence.

(1) every decision on trade, on taxes, on immigration, on foreign affairs

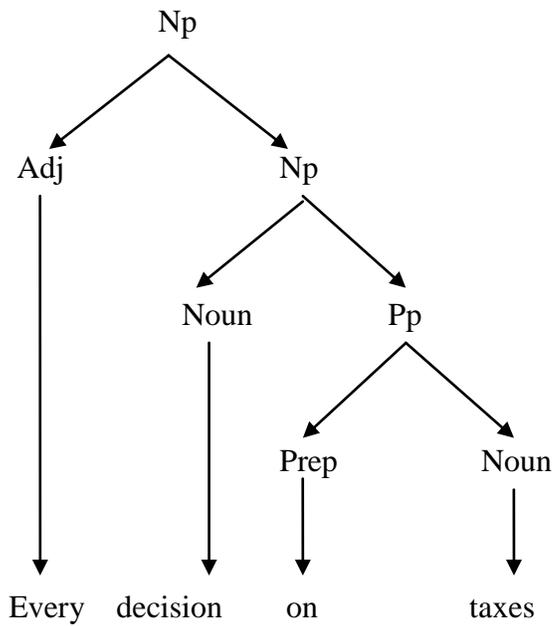


There are some meaning of this phrase

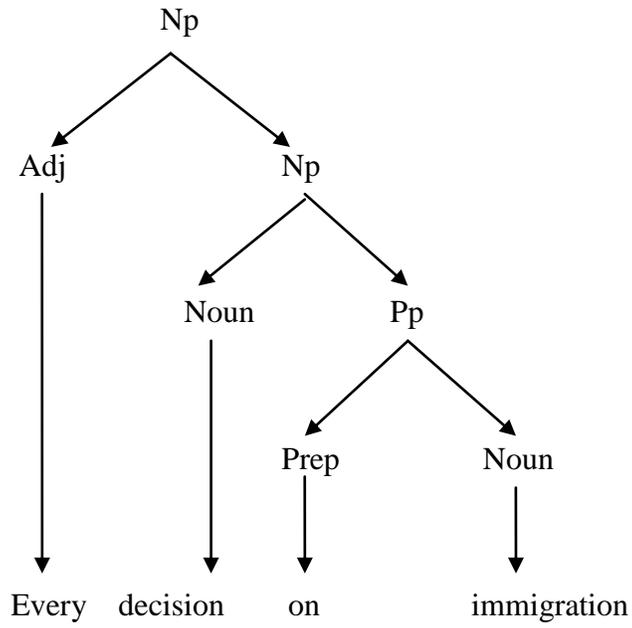
(a) every decision on trade



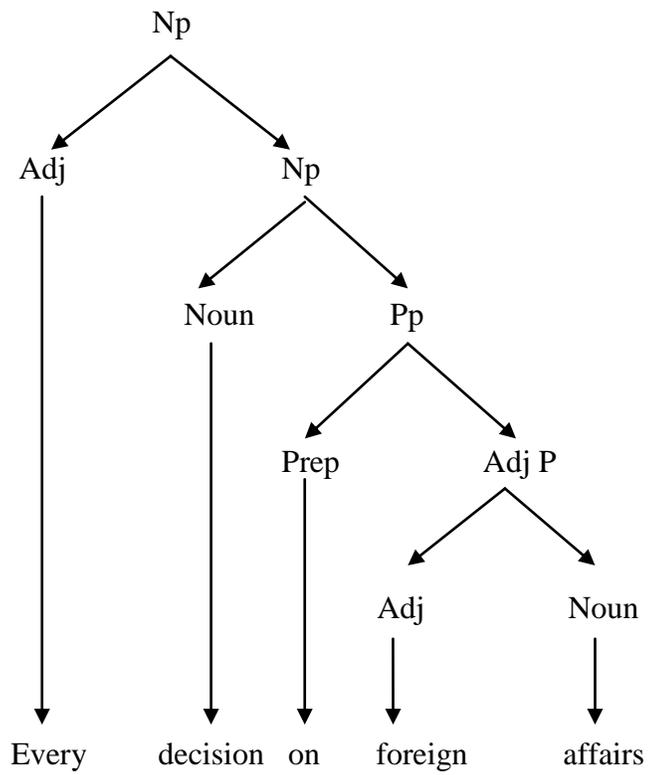
(b) every decision on taxes



(c) every decision on immigration



(d) every decision on foreign affairs



The structure above indicate different interpretations of the phrase *every decision on trade, on taxes, on immigration, on foreign affairs*. From the first meaning is every decision only in the course of trade but in another phrase the meaning is all its meaning to be a decision for all the things that is in trade, taxes, immigration's foreign affairs.

### **3.How was the occurrence ambiguity in Donald Trump's speech**

#### 3.1 lexical ambiguity

The result shows that the occurrence of lexical ambiguity happened in the word level and it is caused by polysemy and homonymy. Polysemy is the existence of several meaning for a single word or phrase and homonymy refers to two or more distinct concepts sharing the "same name". There were 15 polysemy and 8 homonymy based on speech of Donald Trump.

Some examples of Homonymy based on Donald Trump's speech

(1) Matters is not which *party*

- a) First meaning of *party* is a group of person united in policy and opinion
- b) Second meaning of *party* is government based on political parties
- c) Third meaning of *party* is group of persons travelling or working together  
( organisation )
- d) Fourth meaning of *party* is a group for have fun

(2) We will *shine* for everyone

- a) First meaning of *shine* is of the sun or another source of light
- b) Second meaning of *shine* is be very talented or perform very well

(3) Completely from the *face*

- a) First meaning of *face* is the front of a person's head from the forehead to the chin, or the corresponding part in a animal
- b) Second meaning of *face* is confront and deal with accept

(4) When you open your *Heart*

- a) First meaning of *heart* is a hollow muscular organ that pumps the blood through the circulatory system by rhythmic contraction and dilation
- b) Second meaning of *heart* is of a person's thoughts and emotion, especially love or compassion.

(5) *your voice*, your hopes and your dreams

- a) First meaning of *voice* is the sound produced in a person's larynx and uttered through the mouth, as speech or song
- b) Second meaning of *voice* is music the range of pitch or type of tone with which a person sings, such as soprano or tenor
- c) Third meaning of *voice* is the right to express an opinion

Some examples of Polysemy based on Donald Trump's speech

(1) First lady Michelle Obama for their *gracious*

- a) First meaning of *gracious* is their behaviour (kindness, courteous, generous)

b) Second meaning of *graciously* is expressing surprise (oh god , whats wrong ?)

(2) Aid throughout this *transition*.

a) First meaning of *transition* is the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another.

b) Second meaning of *transition* is the process by which a person permanently adopts the outward or physical characteristics of the gender with which they identify as opposed to those associated with their birth sex.

(3) National effort to rebuild our *country*

a) First meaning of *country* is nation with its own government, occupying a particular territory

b) Second meaning of *country* is district and small settlements outside large town, cities, or the capital

(4) We will bring back our *dreams*

a) First meaning of *dreams* is a series of thoughts, image and sensations occurring in a person's mind during sleep

b) Second meaning of *dreams* is to contemplate the possibility of doing something or that something might be the case

(5) Ready to unlock the *mysteries*

a) First meaning of *mysteries* is something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain

b) Second meaning of *mysteries* is a novel, play, or movie dealing with a puzzling crime, especially a murder

### **3.2 Grammatical ambiguity**

The grammatical ambiguity happens in the phrase and sentence level and it's caused by grammatical structure. There were 2 phrase based on speech Donald Trump.

Example of grammatical ambiguity based on Donald Trump's speech:

1. The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer
2. Every decision on trade, on taxes, on immigration, on foreign affairs

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

#### **A. Conclusion**

Based on the data analysis, it can be concluded that:

There were 25 ambiguous sentence, words and phrase in Donald Trump's political Address. They were 23 cases of lexical ambiguity and 2 cases of structural ambiguity. The occurrences of lexical ambiguity in Donald Trump's speech happened in the word level and it is caused by Polysemy and Homonymy. There were 15 polysemy and 8 homonymy. The occurrences of grammatical ambiguity happened in the phrases and sentence level and it is caused by grammatical structure. There were 2 phrases based on speech Donald Trump's.

#### **B. Suggestion**

Ambiguity can arise in variety of spoken and written language. If we listen to the speaker's utterance or read a book, we are sometimes difficult to understand what the speaker or the writer means. It can happen in any situation whether in daily conversation or in written sources. Sometimes when the people hear a speech of their political need to know the true meaning of the word commonly spoken by politician and in fact many people especially in a linguist do not understand the true meaning of a sentence or a word spoken by politician and also a lot of people who do not

understand the sentence ambiguous. Actually all of people have to understand ambiguity but a linguist should be more understanding about the ambiguity. So the suggestion is if we want to know the real meaning of a sentence word or phrase we can read the full text and understand word by word

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### **EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

#### **A. Formal Education**

1. Elementary School at SD Pesantren YPMA 2000 – 2006.
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Sincerely your

Ismi Novita